

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in reply to the office action of March 23, 2005.

Applicants have canceled claim 1 in favor of new claim 15. Claims 2-24 now depend from new claim 15.

In paragraph II of the office action, claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) in view of US 6 406 032.

The examiner argues that beads 23a, 23b are capable of allowing or conducting flow, and thus the examiner argues that beads 23a, 23b constitute flow conducting elements.

Applicants would point out that Fig. 3 of the '032 patent, which is taken along lines 3-3 of Fig. 1, shows half beads 23a, 23b that reside between opposing surfaces of the engine and cylinder head for providing a water hole sealing device about hole 13.

The '032 patent does not disclose the features of pending claim 15 wherein a cylinder head gasket has at least one flow conducting element for coolant so as to protrude from the gasket plate at a location thereof to engage in the recited first coolant cavity in a first one of the engine components when the cylinder head gasket is installed, wherein the gasket plate comprises at least one coolant passage opening for communicating the first coolant cavity with a coolant cavity formed in a second one of the recited engine components when the cylinder head gasket is installed, wherein the flow conducting element provides an impingement and deflector surface for a main flow component of the coolant flow that runs approximately parallel to the gasket plate, and wherein the impingement and deflector surface is disposed between the inlet end and coolant passage opening such that, when the cylinder head gasket is installed,

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part of the main flow component is deflected to provide a flow of coolant entering the coolant passage opening in a direction generally transverse to the gasket plate and generating a directed flow of coolant at an outlet end of the flow path.

The '032 patent simply does not disclose the combination of features including at least one flow conducting element as set forth in pending claim 15. The half beads 23a, 23b of the '032 patent simply do not constitute a flow conducting element as recited in claim 15. As mentioned above, the half beads 23a, 23b reside between opposing surfaces of the engine and cylinder head and provide a water hole sealing device about hole 13.

Likewise, the '032 patent does not disclose the features of claims 2-14 for the reasons set forth in Applicants' previously filed Response To Office Action, which is incorporated herein by reference for convenience.

Applicants believe the pending claims 2-15 are in condition for allowance over the cited '032 patent.

Applicants enclose an IDS citing documents which have been cited a corresponding European patent application. Applicants believe the pending claims 2-15 also distinguish over these documents.

Applicants request entry of this amendment and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward J. Timmer

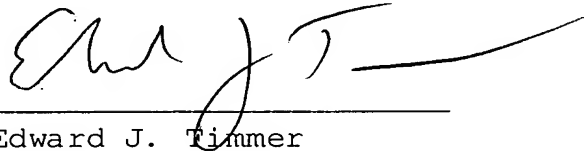
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service under 37 CFR 1.8 as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 2, 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Timmer", is written over a horizontal line.

Edward J. Timmer